

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A coated preparation comprising

at least one hydroformate of the general formula (I)

(I) $M_3[HCOO]_3 \cdot HCOOH$

where M = Na, K, Cs, NH₄.
2. (Original) A preparation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hydroformate is trisodium hydroformate.
3. (Currently amended) A preparation as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the preparation comprises further constituents and/or additives and/or supports.
4. (Currently amended) A preparation as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the coating material is at least one compound which is selected from the group consisting of
 - a) polyalkylene glycols, ~~in particular polyethylene glycols, having a number-average molecular weight of from about 400 to 15 000, for example from 400 to 10 000;~~
 - b) poly(alkylene oxide) polymers or copolymers having a number-average molecular weight of from about 4000 to 20 000, ~~in particular block copolymers of polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene;~~
 - c) substituted polystyrenes, maleic acid derivatives and also styrene-maleic acid copolymers;
 - d) polyvinylpyrrolidones having a number-average molecular weight of from about 7000 to 1 000 000;
 - e) vinylpyrrolidone/vinyl acetate copolymers having a number-average molecular weight of from about 30 000 to 100 000;

- f) poly(vinyl alcohol) having a number-average molecular weight of from about 10 000 to 200 000, poly(vinyl phthalate)s;
- g) hydroxypropylmethylcellulose having a number-average molecular weight of from about 6000 to 80 000;
- h) alkyl (meth)acrylate polymers and copolymers having a number-average molecular weight of from about 100 000 to 1 000 000, ~~in particular ethyl acrylate/methyl methacrylate copolymers and methacrylate/ethyl acrylate copolymers;~~
- i) poly(vinyl acetate) having a number-average molecular weight of from about 250 000 to 700 000, optionally stabilized with polyvinylpyrrolidone;
- j) polyalkylenes, ~~in particular polyethylenes;~~
- k) phenoxyacetic acid-formaldehyde resin;
- l) cellulose derivatives, such as ethylcellulose, ethylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate;
- m) animal, vegetable or synthetic fats;
- n) animal, plant or synthetic waxes or chemically modified animal, plant waxes such as beeswax, candelilla wax, carnauba wax, montan ester wax and rice germ oil wax, spermaceti, lanolin, jojoba wax, sasol wax, Japan wax or Japan wax substitute;
- o) ~~animal or plant proteins and plant proteins, for example gelatin, gelatin derivatives, gelatin substitutes, casein, whey, keratin, soybean protein; zein and wheat protein;~~
- p) mono- and disaccharides, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, ~~for example starches, modified starches and also pectins, alginates, chitosan, carrageenans;~~

- q) vegetable oils, ~~for example sunflower oil, thistle oil, cottonseed oil, soybean oil, corn germ oil, olive oil, rape(seed) oil, linseed oil, coconut oil, palm kernel oil, and palm oil;~~
- r) synthetic or semisynthetic oils, ~~for example medium chain triglycerides or mineral oils;~~
- s) animal oils, ~~for example herring oil, sardine oil and whale oil;~~
- t) hardened (hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated) oils/fats, ~~for example of the abovementioned, in particular hydrogenated palm oil, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, hydrogenated soybean oil;~~
- u) lacquer coatings, ~~for example terpenes, in particular shellac, Tolu balsam, Peru balsam, sandarac and silicone resins;~~
- v) fatty acids, not only saturated but also monounsaturated and polyunsaturated C₆- to C₂₄-carboxylic acids;
- w) silicic acids;
- x) benzoic acid and/or salts of benzoic acid and/or esters of benzoic acid and/or derivatives of benzoic acid and/or salts of benzoic acid derivatives and/or esters of benzoic acid derivatives.

5. (Currently amended) A preparation as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which is a powder with a mean particle size of from 1 µm to 10,000 µm, ~~in particular from 20 µm to 5 000 µm.~~

6. (Currently amended) A process for preparing coated preparations as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises

- (i) charging at least one hydroformate, optionally with admixture of further constituents and/or additives

- (ii) coating the resultant mixture with a coating material, optionally together with further constituents.

7. (Currently amended) A process for preparing coated preparations as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises

- (i) charging coating material, optionally with addition of further constituents, in a suitable apparatus
- (ii) adding at least one hydroformate, optionally together with further constituents and/or additives.

8. (Currently amended) A process for preparing preparations as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises applying the hydroformates, before the coating, to a support material.

9. (Currently amended) A process for preparing coated preparations as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises

- (i) dispersing at least one hydroformate, optionally together with further constituents and/or additives, in melts of suitable coating materials
- (ii) finely dividing and solidifying the resultant dispersions.

10. (Currently amended) A process for preparing coated preparations as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises

- (i) dispersing at least one hydroformate, optionally together with further constituents and/or additives, in a coating material, ~~in particular a lipophilic coating material~~
- (ii) emulsifying it in an aqueous solution of a protective colloid, ~~preferably gelatin or/and gelatin derivatives or/and gelatin substitutes with addition of one or more substances selected from the group consisting of mono-, di- or polysaccharides~~
- (iii) and subjecting it to shaping by spraying and subsequent or simultaneous drying.

11. (Currently amended) A process for preparing coated preparations as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises coating at least one hydroformate by desublimating the coating material.

12. cancelled

13. cancelled

14. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a feed and/or feed additive comprising at least one hydroformate, which comprises

- (i) adding a preparation as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 to a premix
- (ii) mixing the resultant premix with the remaining constituents of the feed and/or feed additive.

15. (Currently amended) An animal feed comprising a preparation as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~.

16. - 20. canceled

21. (New) The animal feed as claimed in claim 15, wherein the feed can be feed to pigs, poultry or calves.

22. (New) A preparation as claimed claim 1, wherein the coating material is at least one compound which is selected from the group consisting of

- a) polyalkylene glycol having a number-average molecular weight of from about 400 to 15 000;
- b) block copolymers of polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene having a number-average molecular weight of from about 4000 to 20 000;
- c) substituted polystyrenes, maleic acid derivatives and also styrene-maleic acid copolymers;

- d) polyvinylpyrrolidones having a number-average molecular weight of from about 7000 to 1 000 000;
- e) vinylpyrrolidone/vinyl acetate copolymers having a number-average molecular weight of from about 30 000 to 100 000;
- f) poly(vinyl alcohol) having a number-average molecular weight of from about 10 000 to 200 000, poly(vinyl phthalate)s;
- g) hydroxypropylmethylcellulose having a number-average molecular weight of from about 6000 to 80 000;
- h) alkyl (meth)acrylate polymers and copolymers having a number-average molecular weight of from about 100 000 to 1 000 000, in particular ethyl acrylate/methyl methacrylate copolymers and methacrylate/ethyl acrylate copolymers;
- i) poly(vinyl acetate) having a number-average molecular weight of from about 250 000 to 700 000, optionally stabilized with polyvinylpyrrolidone;
- j) polyethylenes;
- k) phenoxyacetic acid-formaldehyde resin;
- l) cellulose derivatives, such as ethylcellulose, ethylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate;
- m) animal, vegetable or synthetic fats;
- n) animal, plant or synthetic waxes or chemically modified animal, plant waxes such as beeswax, candelilla wax, carnauba wax, montan ester wax and rice germ oil wax, spermaceti, lanolin, jojoba wax, sasol wax, Japan wax or Japan wax substitute;

- o) gelatin, gelatin derivatives, gelatin substitutes, casein, whey, keratin, soybean protein; zein or wheat protein;
- p) starches, modified starches, pectins, alginates, chitosan, or carrageenans;
- q) sunflower oil, thistle oil, cottonseed oil, soybean oil, corn germ oil, olive oil, rape(seed) oil, linseed oil, coconut oil, palm kernel oil, or palm oil;
- r) medium-chain triglycerides or mineral oils;
- s) herring oil, sardine oil or whale oil;
- t) hydrogenated palm oil, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, or hydrogenated soybean oil;
- u) terpenes;
- v) fatty acids, not only saturated but also monounsaturated and polyunsaturated C₆- to C₂₄-carboxylic acids;
- w) silicic acids;
- x) benzoic acid and/or salts of benzoic acid and/or esters of benzoic acid and/or derivatives of benzoic acid and/or salts of benzoic acid derivatives and/or esters of benzoic acid derivatives.

- 23. (New) A performance enhancer and/or growth promoter which comprises the preparation as claimed in claim 1.
- 24. (New) An acidifier which comprises the preparation as claimed in claim 1.
- 25. (New) A preservative which comprises the preparation as claimed in claim 1.
- 26. (New) A silage additive which comprises the preparation as claimed in claim 1.
- 27. (New) A fertilizer which comprises the preparation as claimed in claim 1.

28. (New) A preparation as claimed in claim 2, which is a powder with a mean particle size of from 20 μm to 5,000 μm and coating material is at least one compound which is selected from the group consisting of

- a) polyethylene glycols, having a number-average molecular weight of from about 400 to 10 000;
- b) block copolymers of polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene having a number-average molecular weight of from about 4000 to 20 000;
- c) substituted polystyrenes, maleic acid derivatives and also styrene-maleic acid copolymers;
- d) polyvinylpyrrolidones having a number-average molecular weight of from about 7000 to 1 000 000;
- e) vinylpyrrolidone/vinyl acetate copolymers having a number-average molecular weight of from about 30 000 to 100 000;
- f) poly(vinyl alcohol) having a number-average molecular weight of from about 10 000 to 200 000, poly(vinyl phthalate)s;
- g) hydroxypropylmethylcellulose having a number-average molecular weight of from about 6000 to 80 000;
- h) alkyl (meth)acrylate polymers and copolymers having a number-average molecular weight of from about 100 000 to 1 000 000, in particular ethyl acrylate/methyl methacrylate copolymers and methacrylate/ethyl acrylate copolymers;
- i) poly(vinyl acetate) having a number-average molecular weight of from about 250 000 to 700 000, optionally stabilized with polyvinylpyrrolidone;
- j) polyethylenes;

- k) phenoxyacetic acid-formaldehyde resin;
- l) cellulose derivatives, such as ethylcellulose, ethylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate;
- m) animal, vegetable or synthetic fats;
- n) animal, plant or synthetic waxes or chemically modified animal, plant waxes such as beeswax, candelilla wax, carnauba wax, montan ester wax and rice germ oil wax, spermaceti, lanolin, jojoba wax, sasol wax, Japan wax or Japan wax substitute;
- o) gelatin, gelatin derivatives, gelatin substitutes, casein, whey, keratin, soybean protein; zein or wheat protein;
- p) starches, modified starches, pectins, alginates, chitosan, or carrageenans;
- q) sunflower oil, thistle oil, cottonseed oil, soybean oil, corn germ oil, olive oil, rape(seed) oil, linseed oil, coconut oil, palm kernel oil, or palm oil;
- r) medium-chain triglycerides or mineral oils;
- s) herring oil, sardine oil or whale oil;
- t) hydrogenated palm oil, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, or hydrogenated soybean oil;
- u) shellac, Tolu balsam, Peru balsam, sandarac or silicone resins;
- v) fatty acids, not only saturated but also monounsaturated and polyunsaturated C₆- to C₂₄-carboxylic acids;
- w) silicic acids;

- x) benzoic acid and/or salts of benzoic acid and/or esters of benzoic acid and/or derivatives of benzoic acid and/or salts of benzoic acid derivatives and/or esters of benzoic acid derivatives.

29. (New) A process for preparing coated preparations as claimed in claim 2, which comprises

- (i) dispersing at least one hydroformate, optionally together with further constituents and/or additives, in a lipophilic coating material,
- (ii) emulsifying it in an aqueous solution of gelatin or/and gelatin derivatives or/and gelatin substitutes with addition of one or more substances selected from the group consisting of mono-, di- or polysaccharides
- (iii) and subjecting it to shaping by spraying and subsequent or simultaneous drying.